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14. REPLY REFER TO

PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT

Over the years the Navy has received innumerable queries about the so-called **Philadelphia Experiment**, or **Project**, and the alleged role of the Office of Naval Research (ONR) in it. The majority of these inquiries are directed to ONR or to the Navy's activities in Philadelphia. The frequency of these queries predictably intensifies each time the experiment is mentioned by the popular press, often in a science fiction book.

The genesis of the **Philadelphia Experiment** myth dates back to 1955 with the publication of **The Case for UFO's**, by the late Morris K. Jessup. Some time after the publication of the book, Jessup received correspondence from a Carlos Miguel Allende, who gave his address as R.D. #1, Box 223, New Kensington, PA. In his correspondence Allende commented on Jessup's book and gave details of an alleged secret naval experiment conducted by the Navy in Philadelphia in 1943. During the experiment, according to Allende, a ship was rendered invisible and teleported to and from Norfolk, Virginia, in a few minutes, with some terrible aftereffects for crew members. Supposedly, this incredible feat was accomplished by applying Einstein's "unified field" theory. Allende claimed that he had witnessed the experiment from another ship and that the incident was reported in a Philadelphia newspaper. The identity of the newspaper has never been established.

In 1956, a copy of Jessup's book was mailed anonymously to ONR. The pages of the book were interspersed with hand written comments which alleged a knowledge of UFO's, their means of motion, the culture and ethos of the beings occupying these UFO's, described in pseudo-scientific and incoherent terms. Two naval officers, then assigned to ONR, took a personal interest in the book and showed it to Jessup. Jessup concluded that the writer of the comments on his book was the same person who had written him about the **Philadelphia Experiment**. These two officers personally had the book retyped and arranged for the reprint, in typewritten form, of 25 copies. The officers and their personal belongings have left ONR many years ago, and ONR does not have a file copy of the annotated book. Navy personnel in Philadelphia believed that the questions surrounding the so-called **Philadelphia Experiment** arise from quite routine research which occurred during World War II at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. It was believed that the foundation for the apocryphal stories arose from degaussing experiments which have the effect of making a ship undetectable or "invisible" to magnetic mines. ONR has never conducted any investigations on invisibility, either in 1943 or at any other time (ONR was established in 1946). In view of present scientific knowledge, ONR scientists do not believe that such an experiment could be possible except in the realm of science fiction.

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